

1871

Account book, July-September 1871

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Atlanta Feb 4, 70.

My very dear Friends

It was only this morning that I learn'd of the very trying pecuniary trials through which you were passing. You have my sincere sympathy - I know well what it is - I have pass'd through the same - and I know the thousand things that will come up to distress you both. But I can tell you there is one thing, that would be harder than pecuniary embarrassment - that is, to be call'd dishonest! And that is an epithet that can never attach to R. C. Aldrich!

William wrote me that he never heard so much sympathy express'd for any one in like circumstances, ~~and~~ ^{and} the universal expression was that, ^{Mr Aldrich} he would sooner suffer a wrong, than wrong any man of a single cent!

It is not often that men in business fail, and retain such a character for honesty and integrity — a richer legacy to your children than Silver or Gold!

These trials are not pleasant, and we cannot but feel them deeply. Still some of the best lessons of our lives have been learned in the School of adversity. It is a good time to learn who your friends are — I remember very well after Dr's failure, (when we lived East, and individual said to me, "Mrs Gibson, Mrs G. says she thinks you will not carry your heads as high as you have done" — I replied that if my husband had not acted dishonestly, and I knew he had not, I could see no reason why I should lower my head, and did not propose to do it. but I had already learned some good lessons that I should be likely to remember! —

The trials and disappointments we meet in this life are without doubt intended for our benefit, and often develop noble traits of character, which required

Howe's Page

just this discipline to bring out.
I am a better woman than I should
have been, had my life been one ~~of~~ uninter-
rupted scene of prosperity & happiness.
I know that is not saying much in my
favor - nevertheless, it is true; and I ought
to have been better in every thing that is
good and lovely in character.

William says
the people around Parma, or many of
them, have seemed to think that Mr. Aldrich
would take care of all the poor, build all
the houses, and see that things generally
were kept going. And it is even so.

Yours will neither of you be discouraged
why should you? Only think of your
precious Children! and dear Richard
and Lizzie - so good & promising -
and my little Maevie - why you are
rich! yes, rich in precious blessings.
My dear dear friends - There are mothers
who would willingly have given up
all & welcomed poverty - to be bless'd

as you are. But I will speak of other things.

Edward & Charlotte desire an affectionate remembrance to you both; and to the children - Sarah and Hattie send so much ^{love} to each one - especially to Richard and Lizzie, and would love to see them in their Southern home. There is a great deal of sickness in Atlanta, more they tell me, than was ever known before.

I have look'd over my letter - and it does not suit me, but you must take it as it is. And may God bless you, & send again prosperity and happiness. and richer treasures than earth can give. Love to Richard and Lizzie, & little Maudie from Grandma. Also kind remembrances to your Mother Mrs Peck, Miss Eddie & other dear friends - And now farewell - God grant we may meet again. With much love your very
Sincere friend C. Gibson